

SCHOOL OF CONTINUING STUDIES

Year ending July 31, 2005



Professor Lawrence Carrington, BA *Lond-UCWI*, PhD *UWI*

– Director

Overview

The School records with sadness the passing of Dr. Bradley Niles, Resident Tutor & Head, Barbados, on Sunday, May 1, 2005. Dr. Niles served the University and the School for 28 years.

For the academic year 2004 -2005, the School of Continuing Studies maintained a strong focus on continuing education programmes, outreach and public education initiatives, research and community development projects and technical assistance.

The new research thrust at the Caribbean Child Development Centre (CCDC) took shape with a workshop and number of research and technical assistance initiatives, with donor support, in the areas of violence and child development and HIV/AIDS and child outcomes. Support for the Early Childhood Development network of activities continued and a new phase of the Child Focus project attracted grant funding from the Caribbean Development Bank.

The Social Welfare Training Centre (SWTC) co-hosted the 7th Biennial Caribbean and International Social Work Educators' Conference at Mona in August 2005. The conference provided a forum in which Social Work Educators and Practitioners reflect on theories and practices pertinent to social work in the Caribbean.

The first offer of the Certificate in Labour Studies developed by the Trade Union Education Institute (TUEI) began in September in Jamaica and the Institute continued to explore the feasibility of offering the programme regionally. TUEI was also instrumental in facilitating a consultation to ensure that Caribbean union women were adequately consulted on and their views represented in the Caribbean Congress of Labour's policy document, New Platform for the Americas.

Jamaica Eastern maintained a strong programme of promoting its programmes and course offerings and the feasibility of establishing a satellite centre to deliver programmes to eastern parishes was explored. A partnership was established with Caribbean Institute of Technology for the offer of a nationally recognised introductory course in Information Technology. A comprehensive review of selected programmes was started during the review period.

Jamaica Western continued its involvement in the community development project *Regenerating Communities* and the HFLE-HIV community project *Promoting Healthy Lifestyles in Western Jamaica*. Discussions on the establishment a satellite centre in Negril for the delivery of courses were initiated with stakeholders from the community.

The School felt the impact of Hurricane Ivan's onslaught with damage to the Centres in Grenada, the Cayman Islands and Jamaica Eastern and the suspension of operations in Grenada and Cayman.

Three associate degree programmes developed by the School were offered for the first time across the region in September 2004. Applications for the second cohort were also processed during this period and three new associate degrees were at various stages of development.